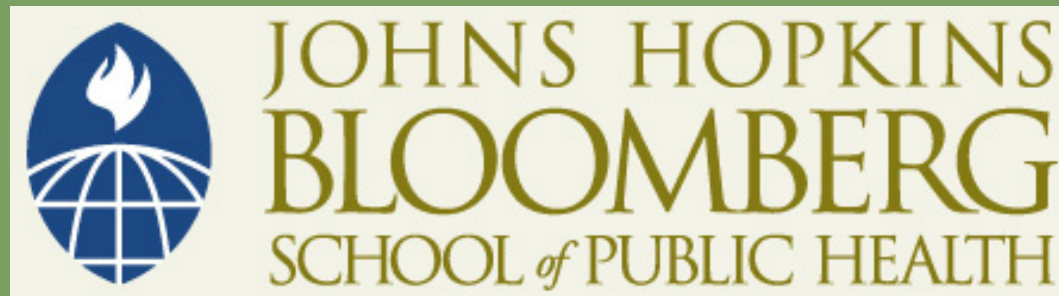


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BLOOMBERG  
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

## Effective Early Child Development Interventions

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Robert Blum, MD, MPH, PhD  
Johns Hopkins University



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BLOOMBERG  
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## Section A

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Early Child Interventions Work!

# Early Child Interventions Work!

1. Their impacts have been shown to last up to 30 years later
2. Long-term impacts include better reproductive and birth outcomes, higher school attainment, greater wage earnings, lower rates of delinquency and crime
3. Early child interventions have been demonstrated to be highly cost-effective

# Day Care

- High-quality\* child care improves early childhood development (ECD)
- Linguistic development
- Cognitive development
- Social development
- Academic achievement

*\*High-quality* refers to the quality of transactions between providers and children

# Why Is There No Coherent US ECD Policy?

- Given the impact, why is there no coherent US early child development policy?
  - Most of a child's well-being depends on the home, and the United States is conflicted as to the roles and responsibilities of government
  - Existing government models use a deficit model, are marginally funded, are heavily bureaucratic with poor intersectoral coordination (e.g., education, health and social services)
  - Measures of what constitutes “high quality” are limited

# Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Initiative

- Maternal and Child Health Bureau, 2003
  
- Small grants to states to develop a 0-5 state plan bridging education, health, mental health, developmental disabilities, family supports, and parenting education
  
- Examples
  - California: First Five
  - North Carolina: Smart Start
  - Minnesota: Way to Grow
  - Connecticut: Help Me Grow

# Federal Programs Are Insufficiently Funded

- In 2007 Head Start reached 51% of eligible children
- Early Head Start reached 5%
- In 2009 the Obama Administration added \$5 billion to expand Head Start/Early Head Start slots
- There is a growing movement toward universal pre-K



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# Head Start

- Head Start: the oldest and largest federally supported ECD program
  - Started in 1965
  - Serves 4-year-olds, usually for one year
  - Targets low-income children below the federal poverty level; 10% developmental disabilities
  - Enrolled children receive health services, dental checks, and developmental assessments (EPSDT)
  - Impacts: reduction in special education placement and grade retention

# Head Start Components

- Child health and development services
- Education and early childhood development
- Child nutrition
- Child mental health
- Family partnerships
- Community partnerships